

Message Text

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P 082055Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
INFO HOWARD AFB PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 169209

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA:OCLR

SUBJECT: NASA FLIGHTS IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT AIRSTREAM

REF: STATE 68242, 160058, 108678

1. AS PART CONTINUING SUPPORT OF ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S PROJECT AIRSTREAM, NASA PLANS ANOTHER SERIES OF FLIGHTS 16-20 AUGUST, 1976. PURPOSE OF MISSION TO DETERMINE LEVEL OF BACKGROUND RADIATION AND ATMOSPHERIC CONSTITUENTS AND CONTAMINANTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF UPPER ATMOSPHERE. FLIGHT REPEATS REFTEL 108678. SIMILAR FLIGHTS WILL BE FLOWN 3-4 TIMES A YEAR ON CONTINUING BASIS.

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2. AIRCRAFT IS USAF OWNED WB-57F CARRYING NASA TAIL

STRIPE. CALL NUMBER NASA 928. FOUR CREW MEMBERS ARE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF NASA (TWO CREWS OF TWO MEMBERS EACH TO FLY ALTERNATE DAYS).

3. INSTRUMENTATION ONBOARD INCLUDES: (1) WHOLE AIR SAMPLING SYSTEM, (2) U-1 FOIL, A QUALITATIVE PARTICULATE SAMPLER, (3) TRITIUM SAMPLER, AND (4) STRATOSPHERIC AIKEN NUCLEI DETECTOR SYSTEM, A QUANTITATIVE PARTICLE COUNTER,

AIRCRAFT NOT CONFIGURED WITH CAMERAS OR OTHER DOWNWARD LOOKING SENSORS.

4. RESULTS OF PROJECT FLIGHTS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY AND DISSEMINATED WORLDWIDE.

5. AIRCRAFT PLANS ARRIVE HOWARD AFB AUGUST 16 COLLECTING DATA ENROUTE OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS. FOUR RETURN FLIGHTS TO BE FLOWN FROM HOWARD, TWO NORTH OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND TWO SOUTH. SOUTHERN OVERFLIGHTS OF ECUADOR AND PERU SCHEDULED FOR 18-19 AUGUST. ROUTE OF FLIGHT WILL BE AIRWAY A12 FROM TABOGA, PANAMA, TO MACHALA, ECUADOR, AIRWAY UA4 TO SALINAS, PERU, AND RETURN VIA SAME ROUTE. STANDARD INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANS WILL BE FILED PRIOR EACH FLIGHT.

6. FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

-- AUG 16 DATA FLIGHT ENROUTE HOWARD AFB

-- AUG 17 DATA FLIGHT FROM HOWARD TO 18 DEGREES NORTH OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS

-- AUG 18-19 DATA FLIGHT FROM HOWARD TO 10 DEGREES SOUTH OVER ECUADOR AND PERU

-- AUG 20 RETURN U.S.

7. FLIGHT ALTITUDE 50 - 63,000 FEET.

8. APPROXIMATELY 8 CIVILIAN SUPPORT PERSONNEL PLUS UNCLASSIFIED

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4 CREW MEMBERS WILL BE PRESENT HOWARD DURING MISSION PERIOD. FOUR ERDA PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

9. FOR LIMA AND QUITO: PLEASE OBTAIN NECESSARY OVER-FLIGHT CLEARANCES PLUS ONE WEEK.

10. FOR PANAMA: PLEASE INFORM APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF FLIGHT. KISSINGER

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